

Claims

1. A standardized method of reproducibly making photographs of different fabrics, so that one or more of each fabric's characteristics of texture, pattern, thickness, drape and translucency, can be reliably understood and compared, comprising the steps of: folding each fabric in the same way;
5 placing the folded fabric on a background surface to provide it with a standardized draped shape; and then photographing each draped and folded fabric in a first same way.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein each fabric has 1-3 folds.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein each fabric has 2 folds.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein each fabric is photographed, so that the resulting photograph has a first total surface area, a second surface area of the photograph shows the fabric and a third surface area of the photograph shows the background surface; the second surface area being greater than
5 the third surface area.

5. The method of any one of claims 1-4 wherein each fabric has 2 folds; and the predetermined standardized drape of the fabric comprises: a bottom ply that is on the background surface and has a first side edge; an intermediate ply having a second side edge; a first fold line between the
5 bottom and intermediate plies; and a top ply having a third side edge; and a second fold line between the intermediate and top plies; wherein the first, second and third side edges are on the same side of the fabric; the first and third side edges are spaced apart and extend generally parallel in a first direction; the second side edge is located between the first and third side
10 edges; and the first and second fold lines are spaced apart and extend generally parallel in a second direction.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the second direction is substantially perpendicular to the first direction.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the first fold line includes a first curve formed by the first and second side edges and having a first radius and wherein the second fold line includes a second curve formed by the second and third side edges and having a second radius, and wherein the first radius
5 is smaller than the second radius.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein a portion of each draped and folded fabric, within a rectangular virtual photo frame, is photographed with a camera and wherein the first direction is at an obtuse angle with respect to a side of the virtual photo frame closest to the camera.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the obtuse angle is between about 105° and 120°, preferably about 110°.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the second direction is at an acute angle with respect to a side of the virtual photo frame closest to the camera and wherein the acute angle is between about 15° and 30°, preferably about 20°.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the first, second and third side edges are serrated.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein each fabric is also photographed in second same way as straight with a full-repeat of a pattern.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the fabric has a serrated edge and is atop a gray background.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein each fabric is also shown in a computer-generated photo-realistic image in a third same way, in use.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein each fabric is shown in use as a window covering and/or a furniture covering.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein each photograph of a fabric in the first and/or second way is stored in a computer database and is tagged to indicate a use of the fabric.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein a plurality of pre-processed digitized photographs of 3-dimensional models of unprinted fabrics in the use are also in the database.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the computer-generated photo-realistic image is made on demand of a purchaser by rendering the photograph of the fabric in the first or second way on the photograph of the 3-dimensional model in the use.

19. A photograph made by the method of claim 18.

20. The photograph of claim 19 comprising an image on an internet web site.

21. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 20.

22. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 19.

23. The method of claim 8 wherein the second direction is at an acute angle with respect to a side of the virtual photo frame closest to the camera and wherein the acute angle is between about 15° and 30°, preferably about 20°.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the first, second and third side edges are serrated.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein each fabric is also photographed in second same way as straight with a full-repeat of a pattern.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the fabric has a serrated edge and is atop a gray background.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein each fabric is also shown in a computer-generated photo-realistic image in a third same way, in use.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein each fabric is shown in use as a window covering and/or a furniture covering.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein each photograph of a fabric in the first and/or second way is stored in a computer database and is tagged to indicate a use of the fabric.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein a plurality of pre-processed digitized photographs of 3-dimensional models of unprinted fabrics in the use are also in the database.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein the computer-generated photo-realistic image is made on demand of a purchaser by rendering the photograph of the fabric in the first or second way on the photograph of the 3-dimensional model in the use.

32. A photograph made by the method of claim 31.

33. The photograph of claim 32 comprising an image on an internet web site.

34. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 33.

35. The method of claim 5 wherein the first, second and third side edges are serrated.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein each fabric is also photographed in second same way as straight with a full-repeat of a pattern.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein the fabric has a serrated edge and is atop a gray background.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein each fabric is also shown in a computer-generated photo-realistic image in a third same way, in use.

39. The method of claim 38 wherein each fabric is shown in use as a window covering and/or a furniture covering.

40. The method of claim 39 wherein each photograph of a fabric in the first and/or second way is stored in a computer database and is tagged to indicate a use of the fabric.

41. The method of claim 40 wherein a plurality of pre-processed digitized photographs of 3-dimensional models of unprinted fabrics in the use are also in the database.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein the computer-generated photo-realistic image is made on demand of a purchaser by rendering the photograph of the fabric in the first or second way on the photograph of the 3-dimensional model in the use.

43. A photograph made by the method of claim 42.

44. The photograph of claim 43 comprising an image on an internet web site.

45. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 44.

46. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 43.

47. The method of claim 4 wherein a portion of each draped and folded fabric, within a rectangular virtual photo frame, is photographed with a camera and wherein the first direction is at an obtuse angle with respect to a side of the virtual photo frame closest to the camera.

48. The method of claim 47 wherein the obtuse angle is between about 105° and 120°, preferably about 110°.

49. The method of claim 48 wherein the second direction is at an acute angle with respect to a side of the virtual photo frame closest to the camera and wherein the acute angle is between about 15° and 30°, preferably about 20°.

50. The method of claim 49 wherein the first, second and third side edges are serrated.

51. The method of claim 50 wherein each fabric is also photographed in second same way as straight with a full-repeat of a pattern.

52. The method of claim 51 wherein the fabric has a serrated edge and is atop a gray background.

53. The method of claim 52 wherein each fabric is also shown in a computer-generated photo-realistic image in a third same way, in use.

54. The method of claim 53 wherein each fabric is shown in use as a window covering and/or a furniture covering.

55. The method of claim 54 wherein each photograph of a fabric in the first and/or second way is stored in a computer database and is tagged to indicate a use of the fabric.

56. The method of claim 55 wherein a plurality of pre-processed digitized photographs of 3-dimensional models of unprinted fabrics in the use are also in the database.

57. The method of claim 56 wherein the computer-generated photo-realistic image is made on demand of a purchaser by rendering the photograph of the fabric in the first or second way on the photograph of the 3-dimensional model in the use.

58. A photograph made by the method of claim 57.

59. The photograph of claim 58 comprising an image on an internet web site.

60. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 59.

61. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 58.

62. The method of claim 47 wherein the second direction is at an acute angle with respect to a side of the virtual photo frame closest to the camera and wherein the acute angle is between about 15° and 30°, preferably about 20°.

63. The method of claim 62 wherein the first/second and third side edges are serrated.

64. The method of claim 63 wherein each fabric is also photographed in second same way as straight with a full-repeat of a pattern.

65. The method of claim 64 wherein the fabric has a serrated edge and is atop a gray background.

66. The method of claim 65 wherein each fabric is also shown in a computer-generated photo-realistic image in a third same way, in use.

67. The method of claim 66 wherein each fabric is shown in use as a window covering and/or a furniture covering.

68. The method of claim 67 wherein each photograph of a fabric in the first and/or second way is stored in a computer database and is tagged to indicate a use of the fabric.

69. The method of claim 68 wherein a plurality of pre-processed digitized photographs of 3-dimensional models of unprinted fabrics in the use are also in the database.

70. The method of claim 69 wherein the computer-generated photo-realistic image is made on demand of a purchaser by rendering the photograph of the fabric in the first or second way on the photograph of the 3-dimensional model in the use.

71. A photograph made by the method of claim 70.

72. The photograph of claim 71 comprising an image on an internet web site.

73. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 72.

74. A photograph made by the method of claim 1.

75. The photograph of claim 74 comprising an image on an internet web site.

76. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 75.

77. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 74.

78. The method of claim 1 wherein each fabric is also shown in a computer-generated photo-realistic image in a third same way, in use.

79. The method of claim 78 wherein each fabric is shown in use as a window covering and/or a furniture covering.

80. The method of claim 79 wherein each photograph of a fabric in the first and/or second way is stored in a computer database and is tagged to indicate a use of the fabric.

81. The method of claim 80 wherein a plurality of pre-processed digitized photographs of 3-dimensional models of unprinted fabrics in the use are also in the database.

82. The method of claim 81 wherein the computer-generated photo-realistic image is made on demand of a purchaser by rendering the photograph of the fabric in the first or second way on the photograph of the 3-dimensional model in the use.

83. A photograph made by the method of claim 82.

84. The photograph of claim 83 comprising an image on an internet web site.

85. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 84.

86. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 83.

87. The method of claim 78 wherein each photograph of a fabric in the first and/or second way is stored in a computer database and is tagged to indicate a use of the fabric.

88. The method of claim 87 wherein a plurality of pre-processed digitized photographs of 3-dimensional models of unprinted fabrics in the use are also in the database.

89. The method of claim 88 wherein the computer-generated photo-realistic image is made on demand of a purchaser by rendering the photograph of the fabric in the first or second way on the photograph of the 3-dimensional model in the use.

90. A photograph made by the method of claim 89.

91. The photograph of claim 90 comprising an image on an internet web site.

92. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 91.

93. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 90.

94. The method of claim 1 wherein each fabric is also photographed in a second same way as straight with a full-repeat of a pattern.

95. The method of claim 94 wherein the fabric has a serrated edge and is atop a gray background.

96. The method of claim 95 wherein each fabric is also shown in a computer-generated photo-realistic image in a third same way, in use.

97. The method of claim 96 wherein each fabric is shown in use as a window covering and/or a furniture covering.

98. The method of claim 97 wherein each photograph of a fabric in the first and/or second way is stored in a computer database and is tagged to indicate a use of the fabric.

99. The method of claim 98 wherein a plurality of pre-processed digitized photographs of 3-dimensional models of unprinted fabrics in the use are also in the database.

100. The method of claim 99 wherein the computer-generated photo-realistic image is made on demand of a purchaser by rendering the photograph of the fabric in the first or second way on the photograph of the 3-dimensional model in the use.

101. A photograph made by the method of claim 100.

102. The photograph of claim 101 comprising an image on an internet web site.

103. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 102.

104. A method of assessing the texture, pattern, thickness, drape and/or translucency of a fabric, comprising the step of viewing the photograph of claim 101.